

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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UNCLAS QUEBEC 0011

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT,CA
SUBJECT: L'ALLIER CHOOSES NOT TO RUN

REF: MONTREAL 064

1. FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS JEAN-PAUL L'ALLIER ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY, JANUARY 17, THAT HE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP. IN A LETTER TO LE DEVOIR L'ALLIER PRAISED BOTH ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES, RAYMOND GARNEAU AND CLAUDE RYAN, BUT DECLINED TO ENDORSE EITHER ONE ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WISHES TO RETAIN HIS FREEDOM "TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE REFERENDUM DEBATE" AND TO PROMULGATE HIS OWN VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC.

2. L'ALLIER TERMED GARNEAU A TEAM PLAYER WHO WOULD APPEAL TO THE TRADITIONAL LIBERAL PARTY BASE IN QUEBEC. RYAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, ENJOYED "MESSIANIC ESTEEM" THROUGHOUT CANADA WHILE HAVING NO LINKS TO THE LIBERAL PARTY MACHINERY. HIS CANDIDACY COMPLETED THE TRIANGLE OF "FRATERNAL ENEMIES" INCLUDING RENE LEVESQUE AND PIERRE TRUDEAU, MEN OF THE SAME INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL GENERATION IN CANADA. GARNEAU AND RYAN, L'ALLIER SAID, SHARED BETWEEN THEM THE BULK OF TRADITIONAL LIBERAL SUPPORT AND (BY IMPLICATION) LEFT
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LITTLE ROOM FOR OTHER CANDIDATES. L'ALLIER ADDED THAT THE POSSIBLE CANDIDACY OF JEAN CHRETIEN WOULD BE THE "POLITICAL ERROR OF THE CENTURY."

3. COMMENT: L'ALLIER, 39, WAS THE MOST NATIONALIST OF THE LEADING CANDIDATES FOR THE LEADERSHIP, AND ENJOYED PARTICULAR SUPPORT AMONG THE YOUNGER PARTY MILITANTS. ALTHOUGH HE DID

NOT THROW HIS SUPPORT TO RYAN, AS HAD BEEN RUMORED,
HE IS PHILOSOPHICALLY MORE ATTUNED TO RYAN, WHO FAVORS A
SPECIAL STATUS FOR QUEBEC WITHIN A RESTRUCTURED CANADA,
THAN TO GARNEAU, WHO IS CLOSER TO THE STATUS QUO. BOSWELL

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, CA, (L'ALLIER, JEAN-PAUL)
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